



TRUTH, JUSTICE AND INFORMATION FOR ALL

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE COLLIN COUNTY LAW LIBRARY

ISSUE 2016-04

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NOVEMBER 2016

Useful Internet Sites and Articles

History of Texas Veterans Court

The American Legion explains Veterans Court in the following manner: "In Veterans Treatment Court, those who served in our nation's Armed Forces go through the treatment court process with their fellow veterans and are connected to the federal, state and local services that are uniquely designed for the distinct needs that arise from military service." (www.texvet.org)

Veterans Courts in Texas were created during the 81st Legislature in 2009 as Chapter 617 of the Texas Health and Safety Code. Chapter 617 sets the parameters and duties for establishing the eligibility of veterans to participate in the program. According to www.justiceforvets.org, Veterans Treatment Court offers a unique and structured method to which veterans respond well, while being supported by fellow veterans the entire time. Among the most important reasons for the creation of Veterans Court are first and foremost the veterans-only docket, which means the judge assigned is familiar with the common struggles of veterans which may include substance abuse or post-traumatic stress disorder. The judge has a strong and disciplined team in place to assist the veteran which gives the judge the opportunity to use discretion and effectively respond to each veteran that appears. Secondly, each veteran experiences camaraderie with others that have served through the use of veteran mentors. Lastly, these courts are a "one-stop shop" by helping veterans get assistance from all the benefits and resources to which the veteran is entitled. It is not uncommon for a Veterans Court to work with Veteran's Health Administration, Veteran Benefits Administration, Veterans Service Organization, State Departments of Veteran Affairs, and veteran mentors.



North Texas Veterans Court

Collin County started its veteran court program in 2012 and its mission is, "To serve the veteran by providing exceptional assistance, guidance and representation in the application process of VA and state benefits for which they are eligible, advocating for the veteran and their dependents." A full list of the services provided by Collin County Veterans Court is available on the Collin County [website](#).

On September 16, 2016, the Rockwall County Courthouse hosted a dedication ceremony that celebrated Texas' first region-wide initiative: The North Texas Regional Veterans Court. Collin County's own Judge John Roach, Jr. recognized the need for a Regional Veterans Court to serve five additional counties. This initiative expands the program to the following counties: Collin, Rockwall, Kaufman, Fannin, and Grayson. Judge Roach stated, "We couldn't let a veteran, because of a geographic line, not have a Veterans Court." A link to the full article is available [here](#).

In addition to the websites previously mentioned, there are a number of resources available to those who would like to learn more about Veterans Court. The State Bar of Texas published an [article](#) explaining Texas Veterans Court. There is also a public service announcement featuring the West Wing cast that provides information about getting involved and how to donate. It is available for viewing [here](#). Thank you to all who have served our country!



THE MYSTIC CORDS OF MEMORY, STRETCHING FROM EVERY BATTLEFIELD AND PATRIOT GRAVE TO EVERY LIVING HEART, SHOULD SWELL INTO A MIGHTY CHORUS OF REMEMBRANCE, GRATITUDE AND REDEDICATION ON THIS SOLEMN OCCASION.

—ABRAHAM LINCOLN

Copies of these articles are available in the library, or from the law librarian via email:
droberts@co.collin.tx.us

Spotlight on the Supremes

On August 31, 2016, the Supreme Court of Texas issued **Final Approval of Amendments to the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure and the Texas Rules of Appellate Procedure and of a Form Statement of Inability to Afford Payment of Court Costs** (Misc. Docket No. 16-9122). This Order approved amendments to Texas Rules of Civil Procedure 145 and 502.3 and Texas Rules of Appellate Procedure 20.1, 25, and 32. The Court also approved a form for inability to pay costs. The new form is entitled Statement of Inability to Afford Payment of Court Costs. A copy of the form is available [online](#) and [here](#) is a link to the Order. These amendments went into effect on September 1, 2016.

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Hours of Operation:
Monday–Friday
8:00 am–5:00 pm

Note: Computers will
automatically log off
at 4:50 p.m.

Did You Know?

The Texas Court of Criminal Appeals was established in 1891 so this year marks its 125th anniversary. On September 22, 2016, the Court was convened to celebrate this milestone. According to the Court's [website](#), the Texas Legislature passed Senate Joint Resolution No. 16 calling for amendments to the Texas Constitution to include, among other things, the creation of a court to be known as the "Court of Criminal Appeals," which would have "appellate jurisdiction coextensive with the limits of the State in all criminal cases of whatever grade." The State Bar of Texas states that "in fiscal year 2015, the CCA received 4,520 criminal appeals, seven of which were for death penalty cases, and 4,698 habeas corpus petitions, 50 of which were for death penalty cases." Here is a link to the full [article](#) on the state bar website.



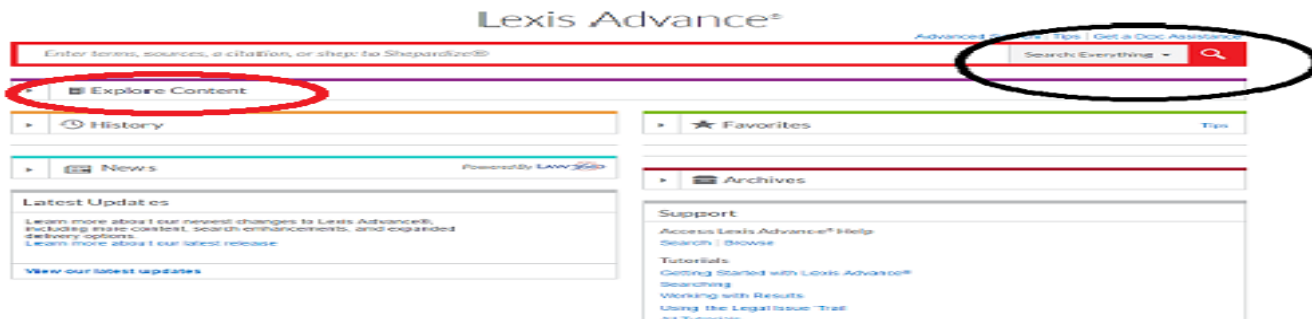
Library Reminders

Attorney IOUs **will not** be accepted for the purchase of the library's forms. Cash or check must be used at the time of purchase. IOUs are only for the use of attorney copies, prints and faxes. The computers are available for legal research only and for a limited period of 30 minutes if the computers are in high demand. Remember to stop at the reference desk to let the librarians know you need a computer and we will get you logged in. Please do not save court documents on the desktop as these are public terminals and are used constantly throughout the day. Additionally, the e-filing stations are strictly for e-filing only, scanning for other purposes is not allowed.

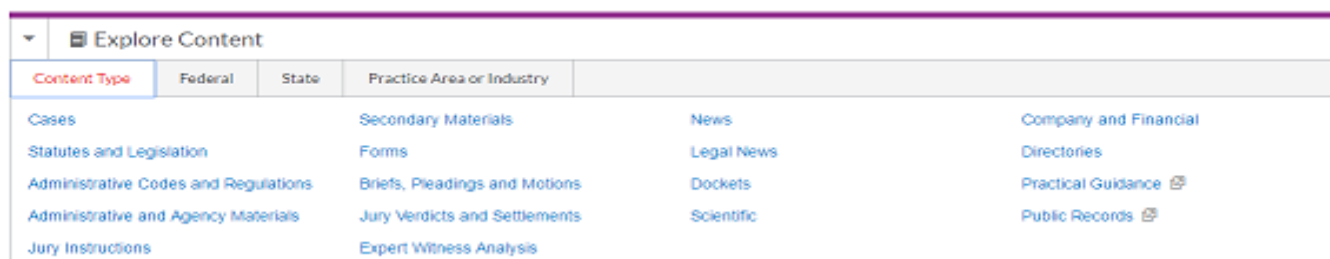


Lexis Advance Tips

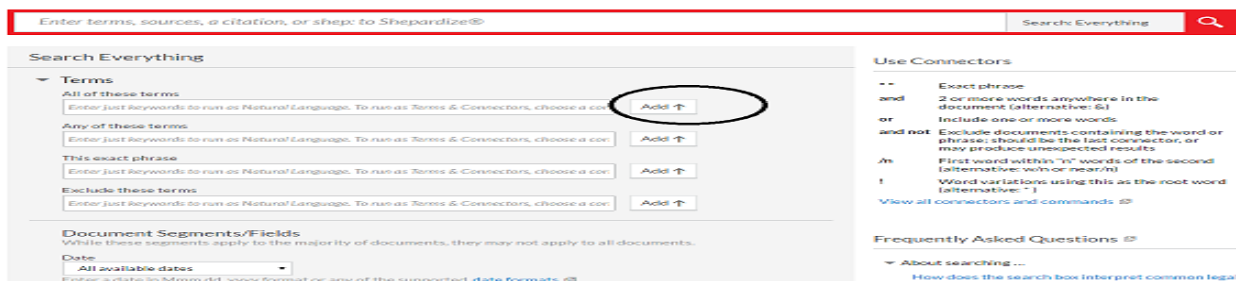
The Curt B. Henderson Law Library is proud to offer both WestlawNext and Lexis Advance to patrons. Here are some tips to get started with LexisNexis. This section will cover the basics of searching and as always, the library staff is happy to provide brief guidance as well. Here is a look at the homepage with the search box and option to change the area(s) searched:



Searches (search bar circled in black) can be conducted using natural language, terms and connectors, citations, partial or full source titles, and popular case names or statutes. The Explore Content (circled in red) tab can be expanded if the user has a particular area (i.e. Cases) he or she would like searched. Explore Content navigates by content areas, jurisdiction or practice area and specific sources.



For those comfortable enough, the advanced search function is also available on the home page. Advanced search allows the user to enter search terms into the various fields and click on the “Add” button. The “Add” button displays the query in the red search box.



Tech Tips: More Useful Apps and Law Blogs

- **Picture it Settled**— Available free through both Google Play and the Apple store, this is a settlement app that was created by both attorneys and statisticians and uses case data from thousands of litigated cases. The goal of the app is to help lawyers “improve their results by modeling the anticipated reactions their behavior will elicit from their opponent” using previous case data and statistics.
- **PacerMonitor**— Companion app to pacermonitor.com, the app can be used at no additional cost by entering your own PACER credentials, or by signing up for a paid subscription to the service with per-document charges. Documents can be viewed, downloaded and e-filed directly from the app. Available for both [Apple](#) and [Android](#) devices.
- **Timeline3D**—this app turns events into a timeline designed to be helpful during court. A timeline will be created by the app based on what data the user inputs. The data can be events or media. Currently available only on Apple devices.



**The Law Library will
be closed November
24-25 for Thanksgiv-
ing**



**The Law Library will
be closed December
23-26 for Christmas**



**The Law Library will
be closed January 2
for New Year's Day**



**The Law Library will
be closed January 16
for Martin Luther
King Jr. Day**

New on the Shelf:

- Federal Civil Judicial Procedure and Rules—2016 Revised Edition
- Ineffective Assistance of Counsel—2016 Edition
- Kinkeade & McColloch's Texas Penal Code Annotated, 2016-2017 Edition
- Is it Admissible? - Revision 18
- Qualifying & Attacking Expert Witnesses, Revision 28
- Sampson & Tindall's Texas Family Code Annotated, August 2016 Edition
- Texas Criminal Defense Lawyer's Association Appellate Manual for Texas Criminal Defense Attorneys—4th Edition, 2016
- Texas Criminal Pattern Jury Charges: Intoxication, Controlled Substance & Public Order Offenses, 2016
- Criminal Law, a textbook by Thomas J. Gardner and Terry M. Anderson, Eleventh Edition
- O'Connor's Texas Estates Code, 2016-2017
- O'Connor's Texas Business Organizations Code Plus, 2016-2017
- O'Connor's Texas Business & Commerce Code Plus, 2016-2017
- O'Connor's Texas CPRC Plus, 2016-2017
- O'Connor's Texas Criminal Codes Plus, 2016-2017
- O'Connor's Texas Crimes & Consequences, 2016-2017
- TDCAA Predicates Manual, 2017-2019
- Federal Prison Guidebook, Revision 3

From the Law Library



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